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Fifty-seventh session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SIXTEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 22 May 1990, at 10 a.m.

President: Mrs. GAZEAU-SECRET (France)

- Examination of petitions (continued)
- Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 September 1989: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (continued)
- Organization of work

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

EXAMINATION OF PETITIONS (T/INF/38) (continued)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): As agreed at our meeting yesterday, we shall continue hearing petitioners. Today the Council will hear the following petitioners, whose requests for hearing are contained in documents T/PET.10/749 to 751: Mr. Charles A. Scheiner, National Mobilization for Survival; Mr. Alan R. Seid, Third Olbiil Era Kelulau; and Mr. Minoru F. Ueki, Senator, Palau National Congress, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Health and Social Welfare.

I invite the petitioners to take places at the petitioners' table.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Charles A. Scheiner, Mr. Alan R. Seid and Mr. Minoru F. Ueki took places at the petitioners' table.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I call first on Mr. Charles A. Scheiner of the National Mobilization for Survival, whose request for a hearing appears in document T/PET.10/749.

Mr. SCHEINER (National Mobilization for Survival): I am speaking today on behalf of National Mobilization for Survival, an organization of grass-roots peace and justice groups throughout the United States; the War Resisters International, a secular pacifist organization with sections in more than 20 countries; and the International Nuclear-Free and Independent Pacific Movement. I also edit "Belau Update", a newsletter which covers Palau's struggle to define its political future, and I have followed the issue closely for several years.

(Mr. Scheiner)

At the Trusteeship Council session last May, many representatives and petitioners felt that we would not be back again. There was a sense that the people of Palau were getting tired of defending their Constitution, that a few more sticks and some small carrots would finally coerce them into accepting the Compact of Free Association. The Guam Accord, lauded by the United States and Palau Governments and welcomed by this Council, were seen as the icing on the cake.

But this was not to be. On 6 February 1990, Palauan voters defeated the Compact by the largest margin ever in the seven plebiscites they have undergone over the past seven years. The miniscule changes from the Guam Accord, representing less than a 3 per cent increase in funding and negligible additional protection for Palauan rights, were insufficient to sway the voters. The United States strategy of forcing Palau through simulated negotiations without changing the 1986 Compact had failed. As the Palauan Commission on Future Palau/United States Relations described it last June,

"the Commission was therefore very much circumscribed in what it was able to accomplish, given the situation and the predilections of the United States".

Yesterday, several representatives of the Administering Authority stated that the Compact was not passed because Palau's Constitution requires 75-per-cent voter approval. The Constitution of Palau does require approval by 75 per cent of the voters to permit nuclear, chemical or biological weapons into Palauan territory. It does not require 75-per-cent voter approval for enactment of a Compact of Free Association with the United States, allowing such approval by a 50 per cent majority. The reason this particular Compact has failed over and over again is that the United States Government insists on maintaining the option of deploying nuclear weapons and warships in Palau. If the United States were to remove section 324 from the Compact, it could be adopted by 50 per cent of the voters and would have been ratified more than six years ago.

(Mr. Scheiner)

Palau needs some breathing space. The United States needs time to reassess its true needs in Palau. I hope that the Administering Authority, the Trusteeship Council and the Government of the Republic of Palau will finally listen to the voters and not force them around the treadmill another time. As the Council's Visiting Mission has noted, Palauan voters show "an evident weariness at being asked to give their views yet again".

The world has seen dramatic changes in the past year. In Europe, people are achieving the democracy and demilitarization they have dreamed of for decades. As the super-Powers reduce hostility and armaments, we can envision a world where human values take priority over military concepts of national security.

But despite the optimism in Europe, other parts of the world have a long way to go. Last September the United States and its allies conducted PACEX, the largest peacetime military exercise in history in the North Pacific. In December the United States invaded the sovereign country of Panama, killing thousands of civilians and graphically demonstrating the extent to which it will go to protect its military basing privileges. These are terrifying omens. I do not know if they contributed to the "No" vote in Palau in February, but they confirm that "manifest destiny" is still United States policy.

Just last week the Foreign Minister of the Philippines served notice that the United States-Philippines Military Bases Agreement will expire next year, ending nearly a century of United States military presence at Subic Bay Naval Station and Clark Air Force Base. Although this may be more a negotiating tactic than an eviction, it adds to the pressure on Palau. Pentagon studies have cited Palau as an alternative to Subic Bay - a base with more than twice as many workers and supporting as many prostitutes as Palau's entire population.

The United States responded to the Foreign Minister that it will withdraw its bases from the Philippines if that is what the Filipino people desire. While this

(Mr. Scheiner)

may be also be a bargaining card, it acknowledges a prerogative guaranteed by the Charter: that the people of every country have the sovereign right to govern themselves without outside intervention. If the United States can belatedly accept that right for Filipinos and value friendly relations above military deployments, why cannot it recognize that right for the people of Palau?

Under the Trusteeship Agreement the Administering Authority is responsible for the economic and poltical development of the Trust Territory. The Council has heard about the inadequacy of economic development, about the creation of an economy captive to American aid. The United States Congress' investigative wing, the General Accounting Office, detailed this in an extensive report last June, documenting widespread indigenous corruption and American neglect. The IPSECO debacle, which has saddled the tiny Republic with a monstrous debt, was facilitated by American laxity, with United States officials failing five times to stop the lamentable arrangement. I hope that the Council has reviewed the General Accounting Office's report and I will not review its finds further here.

On the political side, last February's Visiting Mission observed "a degree of disaffection with the electoral process on the part of many voters" (T/1942, para. 50). There is more to political development than repeated plebiscites on the same question. Over the 10 years Palau's Constitution has been in effect, the United States has shown them how little the trappings of democracy mean when put up against big-Power politics. It is up to Palau's leaders, with help from the United Nations and without manipulation from Washington, to restore their people's faith in Western-style democratic processes. It will not be easy.

In closing I would like to request the Trusteeship Council to take a few specific actions:

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(Mr. Scheiner)

First, it should support the call for a moratorium on future Compact-related votes in Palau. This would allow people in Palau, the United States and the United Nations to consider carefully all options for the future of the Republic.

Secondly, it should exercise United Nations oversight responsibilities to ensure that the Administering Authority does not escalate its military presence in the Territory. State Department officials have suggested that with the defeat of the Compact the United States might have to exercise the military basing rights it claims to have under the trusteeship.

Thirdly, it should help the people of Palau to find ways to be economically independent of the United States, perhaps through United Nations or multilateral agencies.

Fourthly, I hope the Council will consider developing a different status for Palau until true independence is attained. The trusteeship arrangement was visionary in 1947; it is outmoded and ineffective today and cannot provide for needs not foreseen nearly half a century ago. With world-wide political decolonization nearly accomplished, the United Nations needs to help Palauans find a system that avoids economic neo-colonialism as well as direct foreign political and military control. Perhaps direct United Nations administration, as was the case with Namibia, can assist Palauans in freely developing their options.

I thank the Council for listening to me today and for all the time the United Nations has invested in this micro-State. I fervently hope that the Council's efforts will produce results that will benefit not only the people of Palau but also people all round the globe yearning for democracy and self-determination.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I now call on Mr. Alan R. Seid of the Third Olbiil Era Kelulau, whose request for hearing appears in document T/PET.10/750.

Mr. SEID: I am a member of the House of Delegates representing the capital State of Koror of the Republic of Palau. I speak here today as a petitioner in my capacity as a concerned citizen. It is indeed a distinct honour to address this body, for which I am grateful.

The islands of Palau and the United States of America have shared a special relationship since the trusteeship of the Pacific Islands was created in 1947. A trusteeship relationship is one of carrying and nurturing a developing nation as well as administering its governmental processes until that nation has matured sufficiently to do so on its own.

(Mr. Seid)

During the trusteeship, the United States has guided the political development and governmental maturation of Palau. Today, Palau is among the most adamantly democratic nations of the world. Palau takes great pride in its active and well-informed electorate and its solid, representative Government.

Yesterday, we heard many statements that covered different topics. We heard the United States representative's statement, which discussed the recent development of Palau along with the United States' future plans in its capacity as the Administering Authority. We heard others speak of the wonderful natural environment of Palau. While I respect many of those views, I should like to give my own views today. Should they differ from those already given, the Council will please understand that it is all in the spirit of seeking what is best for the present and future well-being of the Palauan people. I trust as well that in sharing our views we may find ourselves arriving at a more positive direction for all concerned.

Palauan students in the United States, who at this time are regarded as citizens of the Trust Territory, are faced with difficulties in continuing their education process because they are not permitted to work while they are students within the United States. I humbly request the Administering Authority to amend and change its immigration regulations to allow Palauan students to receive employment during their studies in the United States. It is extremely difficult to afford the cost of education and living in the United States without being able to work as a student. Parents back home in Palau cannot afford to assist their children financially, simply because the average *per capita* yearly income is quite low, a mere $6,500. The requested change - allowing Palauan students the option of employment while they are studying - would be a genuine fulfilment of the promotion of education of Trust Territory citizens as prescribed in the Trusteeship Charter.

(Mr. Seid)

I would also like to request the Administering Authority to support Palau under its status as a Trust Territory in becoming eligible to receive grants in aid from other nations as well as development loans from international lending institutions, such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other similar organizations. The ability to receive such services would relieve the Administering Authority of any further burden of financial assistance, as such services would help build a stronger economy.

In the area of economic development, we all realize that tourism has great potential for Palau. That potential is now being hindered by the lack of direct flights from key market sources within the region, such as Japan. Palau is caught in a dilemma at this time; it cannot negotiate bilateral aviation agreements with those key market nations and its desire in that regard is receiving insufficient support from the Administering Authority. I humbly request that the United States provide more support for Palau's efforts in that matter, or allow Palau through secretarial order to conduct its own aviation matters with appropriate expertise, advice and support from the United States. Again, we all agree that that would induce greater self-sufficiency.

While I applaud the announcement by the Administering Authority that it will provide greater presence in Palau in its role as a trustee, I am compelled to express my concern about any possible infringement upon self-government. I am concerned about reversing the process that has taken so long to achieve. I recognize that there have indeed been problems in the early stages of transition to self-government; however, I also recognize that the steps and progress towards self-government in Palau have been of the highest standards when compared internationally.

(Mr. Seid)

I hope that the increased presence and role of the Administering Authority will be more technical in nature rather than impeding Palau's self-governing growth process. In addition, I pray that the United States will refrain from exercising its military interests under its powers as Administering Authority. Though I do not believe that will be done, I must so state for the record. To do otherwise would be an infringement of the spirit of Palau's Constitution.

As we are all aware, Palau's political status has been a topic of long-standing discussion between Palau and the United States. The impasse with regard to the Compact of Free Association is not the responsibility of Palau alone. It is a mutual problem between Palau and the United States. I feel that it is time for the United States and Palau to reopen discussions and negotiations. It is time to review the proposed Compact of Free Association and to explore other options in a fresh new light.

The world is seeing great peaceful change. Our time has seen the Berlin Wall dismantled and sold as art. The era is ever changing and there is room for new talks and new thinking. I humbly ask the United States to come forth and reopen discussions and negotiations on the terms of the Compact and explore other alternatives in a genuine spirit of friendship and good faith.

Palau has always been proud to be first among nations in its own concern for the well-being of this Earth that we share. Due to the unique marine environment of Palau, recently acclaimed as one of the Seven Underwater Wonders of the World, I ask the United Nations and the United States to provide Palau with guidance and assistance in protecting our sensititve ecology. Palau is a small island nation dependent upon its natural beauty and on its marine resources for its sustenance. Palau asks the nations of the world to join us in our concern for the environment. Unique natural wonders of the world should be protected and preserved for future generations. Palau seeks that assistance because of the need for balanced

(Mr. Seid)

development that would not harm our beautiful yet frail ecosystem, allowing it to remain and flourish for the benefit of the Palauan people and all mankind.

The flag of Palau is a full moon shining brightly over the blue sea. Such a flag depicts the basic character of the Palauan people, who are basically compatible with nature and enjoy the sea, the breeze swaying the palm trees on the white sandy beach, chants and dances of the past, songs of love, legends and myths. In my opinion, one basic way to measure happiness among people is to look into the faces of young innocent children. If they smile freely, there is happiness. Yes, there is great beauty and peace in the innocent smiles of children. Perhaps, as I speak now, you may think that the Palauan people are just a bunch of romantics. That may be, but the important point I wish to express is that the cultural heritage and livelihood of the Palauan people should be enhanced and preserved.

As I leave today, I sincerely hope that when the Trusteeship Agreement has come to an end - whenever that may be - our guardian, the United States, will have helped us to stand beside it as one nation to another, not as a small nation in the shadow of a giant one. We hope to achieve a new beginning based upon mutual respect, democratic principles, and human dignity.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I now call on Mr. Minoru F. Ueki, Senator, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Health and Social Welfare, whose request for hearing appears in document T/PET.10/751.

Mr. UEKI: Forty-three years ago the Trusteeship of the Pacific Islands, formerly mandated to Japan, was approved by the United Nations Security Council. Soon thereafter the United States Government completed its approval process for the Trusteeship Agreement over this Territory, which includes our homeland of Palau.

In taking on the role of Administering Authority the United States assumed the obligation to promote the basic objectives of trusteeship set forth in Article 76 of the United Nations Charter. Among those objectives are the promotion of the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories and their progressive development towards self-government or independence.

Today, Palau stands at a crossroads in its quest for self-determination as a component part of the sole remaining Trust Territory in the world. This is not a situation that we willingly chose for ourselves, nor is it one we are proud of. Seven times our people have voted on an agreement that would provide for a new political status and thereby lead to a termination of the Trusteeship. Each time, that agreement, the Compact of Free Association with the United States, has been rejected by the Palauan people. The most recent referendum, in February of this year, resulted in a voter turn-out and a favourable vote that represented dramatic declines from previous referendums, notwithstanding numerous purported improvements in the Compact.

Each rejection has been followed by a reiteration of the United States Government's position that the Compact embodies the only terms on which it will assume a new political relationship with Palau. When the situation is viewed from a perspective that considers the self-interest of the United States Government to be paramount, that position is understandable. The Compact would have been extremely favourable to the United States. It would have provided for the militarization of an archipelago that the United States covets for its strategic

(Mr. Ueki)

value. It would have perpetually denied all the nations of the world access to Palau for military purposes. It would have obligated the Palau Government to provide to the United States Government any and all Palauan land it might request to use for military purposes. It would have provided economic assistance for a 15-year period while permitting the United States Government the full scope of its extensive military rights for a period of 50 years or more.

It is not difficult to understand why the Palauan people have repeatedly demonstrated their reluctance to enter into a new relationship with the United States on those terms. The fundamental fact that we wish to emphasize here today is that, until a new political status is achieved and the Trusteeship terminated, the United States remains bound, legally and morally, to fulfil its obligations under the Trusteeship Agreement. Further, the Trusteeship Council remains bound to ensure that those obligations are fulfilled.

We do not intend to recite a litany of the shortcomings that we might perceive in the United States stewardship of Palau. The Trusteeship Council has heard this many times over the years. Many members of the Council have come to Palau and have seen at first hand the circumstances of our nation, including the successes and failures of the Trusteeship. We cannot deny that the standard of living of the Palauan people compares favourably with that of many other underdeveloped nations of the world. And yet over the past decade it has been difficult to escape the impression that the United States has been withholding complete fulfilment of its Trusteeship obligations for a distinct purpose. That purpose was to make Compact approval more attractive by including basic capital-improvement projects and funding in that package. Our receipt of this assistance would be contingent on our approval of the Compact. The fallacy of that strategy, however, was that the United States Government was and is under an existing obligation through the United

(Mr. Ueki)

Nations Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement to provide assistance of that very nature.

We must with some regret inform the Council that, contrary to what it may have heard here from others, the time has arrived when we must disavow the dream that the implementation of the Compact is just around the corner. It is simply not going to happen, and for this body to assume that it will would be dereliction of its duty.

Hence, we urge the Trusteeship Council to prevail upon the United States Government to take a more active role in economic devlopment in its administration of Palau. By this, we do not mean that the United States should simply pour money into Palau. While our basic capital-improvement needs are substantial and demand to be met, we have a deeper concern, and that is the apparent reluctance of the United States Government to take the steps necessary to ensure the Palauan people effective and just government.

There have been times in recent years when, quite frankly, we have seriously questioned the ability of Palau to govern itself. We have suffered through periods of civil disorder, political violence and murder, drug transit, large-scale corruption and the trampling of the democratic principles guaranteed by the Palau Constitution, the United Nations Charter, Trusteeship Agreement and the United States Constitution. The Council has heard of those problems even as they were happening. They have been well documented by such respected and impartial authorities as the International Commission of Jurists and the General Accounting Office of the United States Congress.

We concede that conditions in Palau have improved since their nadir several years ago. However, with the exception of a single case, we are unable to report to the Council that our political and legal systems have been able to resolve any

(Mr. Ueki)

of those matters, including the assassination of our first President and another politically motivated murder. Until accountability is introduced into our Government we feel unprepared to assume true self-government.

We have made repeated requests over the years to the United States Government for assistance. Repeatedly, the United States Government, a self-proclaimed champion of human rights and justice, has invoked a façade of Palauan sovereignty to vindicate its own unwillingness to respond meaningfully. We cannot avoid the conclusion that more effective United States investigative and prosecutorial assistance has not been forthcoming because of the perception that its end result might have political implications that would damage the prospects for the approval of the Compact. Be that as it may, the time is rapidly running out for resolving the myriad criminal acts that have tainted the seminal Palauan democracy as well as for instituting policies and procedures to prevent their recurrence.

(Mr. Ueki)

Those policies and procedures should be drawn up in recognition of the likelihood that the Trusteeship will not be terminated in the near future, and therefore they should be formulated to carry out the obligations which the United States Government willingly undertook through the Trusteeship Agreement.

The Trusteeship also specifically obligates the United States to promote economic advancement and self-sufficiency, improve the means of transportation and communication and protect the health of Palauans as inhabitants of the Trust Territory. From our point of view, achievement of those objectives will permit us to break free of the dependence on the United States that is manifested by an economy that is primarily supported by annual grant funding from that nation's Government. In practical terms, this translates into needs for a reliable water supply, for the capacity properly to handle our present and future sewage and for adequate communications, both internally and internationally. Perhaps most indicative of our arrested state of development is the lack of a road system on our largest island, Babelthuap, the second largest land mass in Micronesia. We simply lack the capital to exploit on our own the tremendous economic potential of this resource.

Another area of concern to Palauans, as well as all other Pacific Islanders, is the United States plan to dispose of an estimated 500 tons of chemical weaponry, including deadly nerve gases, on Johnston Atoll in the central Pacific. We firmly support the formal protest against this weapons disposal plan filed by the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia as well as the objections of other Pacific nations.

The people of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands are still recovering from the horrendous effects of United States nuclear testing which occurred there nearly 40 years ago. We fail to understand why, if safe disposal of those weapons is indeed possible, it cannot be achieved within the borders of the mainland United

(Mr. Ueki)

States. The Pacific, although sparsely populated, should not be regarded by the United States or other developed nations as a convenient dumping ground for substances with potentially dire environmental consequences for the entire region.

In conclusion, we ask the Council to remember that Palau did not ask to become a Trust Territory. We were caught in the cross-fire of super-Powers in the Second World War. In essence, we were a spoil of war that the United Nations awarded to the United States as a so-called strategic trust.

All Palauans, like our fellow Micronesians, look forward to the day when the Trusteeship for the Pacific Islands is terminated, but the fact that we remain a Trust Territory cannot be avoided or denied by the Trusteeship Council. Neither can it be denied that the Trusteeship cannot be terminated until Palau is truly prepared to become self-governing.

Our smallness and our economic dependence on the United States have put us in a position of weakness in our dealings with the United States. In the Council's eventual review of the terms that might be proposed by the United States for the termination of the Trusteeship and the formation of a new political relationship with Palau, we ask that it carefully scrutinize the United States interests sought to be served by such terms. Will those interests be primarily political, military, economic or benevolent? We recognize that international relations are matters of give and take, but the Council is responsible for ensuring that termination of the Trusteeship for Palau and its fellow Pacific Islands is on fair terms, at the same time promoting global peace and stability.

We, like most Palauans, hope and believe that Palau and the United States will eventually enter into a long-term political relationship. That relationship, we pray, will be far different from the one proposed by the defunct Compact of Free Association. It will take time to work out the particulars of this new relationship, but we are sure that the Council can appreciate that too much is at

(Mr. Ueki)

stake to rush the process. It is incumbent upon the Trusteeship Council, until the process is complete, to ensure that the ideals of the United Nations Charter are fully implemented in the United States administration of Palau, and that the interests of the Palauan people are not made subservient to United States military and political interests in any subsequent relationship. We note recent indications of an improved United States administration, and encourage the Trusteeship Council to support further movement in that direction.

The Council's mandate is clear and honourable, and we simply ask that it execute that mandate according to its terms. It may thus seize the opportunity to turn Palau into a successful exemplar of the true potential of the Trusteeship system, with consequential benefits to the Palauan people and to the stability and prosperity of the Pacific region and the world.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): If no member of the Council wishes to put questions to the petitioners, or to comment, I request the petitioners to withdraw.

The petitioners withdrew.

EXAMINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1989: TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (continued)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Does any member of the Council wish to put questions to the representatives of the Administering Authority?

Mr. SMITH (United Kingdom): In his statement yesterday, the representative of Palau, Mr. Uherbelau, referred to, among other things, a request for funds for the construction of a new gaol facility. I should be grateful if a representative of the Administering Authority could inform us as to the current status of that request.

Mr. WILKINSON (United States of America): The current Koror gaol has deteriorated severely. There is a sum of $800,000 proposed in United States Public Law 101-219, which has been agreed to in the Guam Accords. That money has been requested in the President's fiscal year 1991 budget, which is now pending before the United States Congress. That money would go towards the construction of a new facility or renovation of the current prison. Palau has requested $3.8 million to perform a site study and to prepare architectural and engineering plans for a new prison. That would suggest the possibility of a prison costing over $30 million.

We strongly questioned whether such a large facility was appropriate, and would recommend that Palau evaluate its criminal justice system, including sentencing, in the context of local tradition, society and culture. Those influences might reduce significantly the perceived need for a sizeable high security confinement type facility. The Office of Territorial and International Affairs of the Department of the Interior is willing to provide technical assistance funds towards such an evaluation.

Mr. SMITH (United Kingdom): As a follow-up to that question, although it appears that clearly the problems of the prison are being addressed, I recall from an earlier visit to Palau, in 1989, that there was a serious problem of overcrowding in the prison as a result of the detention of a number of fishermen who had been apprehended fishing within Palau's fishing zone. My question is whether that problem of overcrowding and of foreign fishermen continues to cause problems in Palau.

Mr. WILKINSON (United States of America): I would like to ask Mr. Uherbelau, representing here the Republic of Palau, to comment on that matter.

Mr. UHERBELAU (Special Representative): I am happy to report that the situation has already been resolved. The 60-odd Indonesian fishermen who were caught fishing illegally in Palauan waters and arrested by our enforcement officers have been repatriated back to Indonesia and are no longer in gaol in Palau.

Mr. WILKINSON (United States of America): Assistant Secretary Guerra would like to add a comment on that particular point in further response to the question of the representative of the United Kingdom.

Ms. GUERRA (Special Representative): Let me add that, besides the seeking of future appropriations for the prison in Palau, at this time there is a sum of $100,000 that has been appropriated for renovation and some work that is currently taking place in the prison in Palau.

Mr. SMITH (United Kingdom): I am very satisfied to hear that the problem of those fishermen has indeed been resolved.

I have one further question on the subject of prisons. When the Visiting Mission went to Palau in April 1989 one of its suggestions was that the prisoners themselves might be utilized in the interim, pending renovation of the prison, to carry out certain basic work such as, I imagine, cleaning or painting the facility. I should like to know whether any action has been taken in response to that suggestion.

Mr. WILKINSON (United States of America): This question I would also like to refer to Mr. Uherbelau, representing the Republic of Palau in our delegation.

Mr. UHERBELAU (Special Representative): Yes, the Palau Government has a system of work furloughs and that is to send the prisoners to do some work outside the prison, like cleaning the roads and helping in maintenance work in the hospitals and schools, but unfortunately one of the Justices of the Palau Supreme Court struck down that process and stopped the work furlough programme and now it

(Mr. Uherbelau)

is up to the court to decide which prisoners can be released on work programmes from six in the morning to six in the afternoon. So there is no longer discretion on the part of the public safety director to release the prisoners on work furloughs, it is subject to the discretionary authority of the judiciary.

Mr. SMITH (United Kingdom): I thank Mr. Uherbelau for his answer. However, my question related to prisoners actually carrying out work inside the prison. The Mission at that time observed that the prison was in an extremely poor state of repair and felt that some of the problems could have been handled by getting the prisoners themselves to carry out some basic cleaning and repair work.

Mr. UHERBELAU (Special Representative): I am sorry that I misunderstood the question of the representative of the United Kingdom. What he referred to is being done at the moment: prisoners themselves clean up and do some maintenance work in the gaol.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Since this is the first time the Soviet delegation has spoken at the current session, I wish first of all like on behalf of my delegation to congratulate you, Madam, on your election to the important post of President of the Trusteeship Council at this session. I am convinced that under your guidance the Council will have a successful session.

We should like also to congratulate the representative of the United Kingdom, Mr. Richardson, on his election to the post of Vice-President of the Council.

The Soviet delegation will do everything it can to ensure that the work of this session proceeds efficiently and in the interest of the people of Micronesia. My delegation is willing to do all it can to co-operate with the President and the other members of the Trusteeship Council.

Before addressing specific questions to the representatives of the Administering Authority, I wish to make a general observation directly related to previous hearings and to what the petitioners have said. We believe that these have provided the Council with broad-ranging information; their statements raised important issues and problems, and we hope that the representatives of the Administering Authority will respond appropriately to this information, which

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

supplements that provided in the report of the Administering Authority, and comment appropriately on it.

I turn now to specific questions on the 1989 report of the Administering Authority. On pages 8 and 9, the report states that in May 1989 the Administering Authority and representatives of Palau signed an Agreement Concerning Special Programs Related to the Entry Into Force of the Compact of Free Association. Could the representatives of the Administering Authority tell us more about what those programmes are?

Mr. WILKINSON (United States): The agreement referred to is popularly known as the Guam Accords, named after the site of the May 1989 talks between the representatives of Palau and of the United States. That agreement provides over $9 million in additional funding for special projects in Palau. Over $6 million has already been allocated to the construction costs of the new Palau hospital. A special prosecutor and a public auditor selected by the Palauan Government have received authorization from the United States Government in the amount of $247,000.

The Guam Accords are being implemented and do not depend on adoption of the Compact; that is to say, provisions are being implemented following signature of the Accords themselves, without reference to the results of the Compact vote. There are, however, other subsidiary agreements of the Compact which do not come into force until adoption of the Compact. Those agreements, specified in the Compact-implementation legislation of the United States, contained in House Joint Resolution 175, are pending Compact adoption.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I thank the representative of the United States for the clarifications he has given in response to my question.

Perhaps following up on questions that were raised by the representative of the United Kingdom, I might ask a question in connection with the stopping of foreign fishermen in the 200-mile fishery zone around Palau. I should like to ask: under what laws are the local authorities operating in Palau when they stop and detain foreign fishermen? Are local laws being applied, or are they laws of the United States?

Mr. WILKINSON (United States): The United States recognizes that the people of Palau should be beneficiaries of the resources of the surrounding ocean, and we have been working to ensure that this will be the case. We have co-operated with the legislature of Palau as it develops legislation creating fishery management zones. We are pleased that it has enacted such legislation, and we are assisting in its implementation. Incidentally, I might mention that the United States has recently transferred a 95-foot Coast Guard patrol boat to the Government of Palau for this purpose, and the United States Coast Guard is providing training in its operation and maintenance.

The United States supports the efforts of the Government of Palau to manage and conserve its marine resources. The legal régime of Palau has been established in the past few years. Fishing by foreign vessels in the waters of Palau is now governed by private and public, bilateral and multilateral agreements. Palau has also notified the United States of its intention to become a signatory to the Convention of the Law of the Sea once the Compact of Free Association has entered into force.

(Mr. Wilkinson, United States)

In sum, we have both encouraged and supported the establishment of a régime predicated on both local legislation enacted by Palau and the complex of private and public, bilateral and multilateral agreements which apply.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I thank the representative of the United States for the answer he has given me in response to the question raised.

I should like to ask one more question relating to the statement which, I believe, was made by Ms. Stella Guerra at the last meeting in connection with the strengthening of drug-control activities aimed at preventing the importation of narcotics and other prohibited substances into the Trust Territory. Her statement contained information to the effect that a fairly large group involved in the illegal transfer and distribution of such substances was arrested. She also mentioned that about 13 persons from the Territory were arrested and admitted their guilt.

My question is: Who were the other members of the group? Were they people not belonging to the local population? In general, I should like to know a little more about the incident and what measures are being taken to prevent any further importation of prohibited substances into the Territory.

Mr. WILKINSON (United States): In response to the question of the representative of the Soviet Union, I wish to inform the Council that the reference to the law-enforcement action, which was undertaken by a combined law-enforcement team in Palau, as noted, did arrest a number of people guilty of trafficking in narcotic drugs. The arrests were made in August of last year. Thirteen Palauans were arrested and pleaded guilty. On Guam approximately 30 non-Palauans were also arrested in the same sweep. I do not have the exact figures, but I believe that a number of these were Philippine nationals and a number were from Guam. All

(Mr. Wilkinson, United States)

30 non-Palauans also pleaded guilty and were eventually sentenced to up to 15 years in prison. We believe that those arrests struck a major blow to regional narcotics trafficking.

In addition, frequent, although smaller, arrests and sweeps continue. Drug education programme are under way, and the hospital in Palau has been equipped with drug-analysis equipment provided under a grant from the Department of the Interior.

In short, beyond that major sweep and series of arrests, every effort is being made to shut off the drug pipeline from South-East Asia and other areas that runs via Palau to Guam and the United States.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): My next question relates to page 13 of the report, in the section entitled "Law and Order". In order to avoid double interpretation, I shall read it in English. It reads:

(spoke in English)

"Legal matters involving the Trust Territory (Administering Authority) are handled either by a contract attorney or the solicitor's office of the Department of the Interior."

(continued in Russian)

Concerning that sentence, I should like some clarification of the views of the Administering Authority. Does the transfer of legal obligations in the Trust Territory have any influence or negative impact on the implementation of the Administering Authority's tasks, since there is a separation between the place where activities are carried out and the place where they are considered?

Mr. WILKINSON (United States of America): I am pleased to clarify as best I can, admitting to start with that I am not a lawyer and may not choose precisely the right words.

My clarification is essentially along the following lines. The reference in the paragraph quoted by the representative of the Soviet Union has to do with the activities of the Trust Territory Administration, that is, the representatives of the Department of the Interior or the United States Government as Administering Authority. In the past, the Administration in Saipan had a lawyer or an Attorney General on its staff for such activities; however, with the emergence of strengthened self-government in the area, it became less and less necessary for the office of the Trust Territory Administration in Saipan to undertake those kinds of activities. Hence, the position was phased out and, as stated here, the Trust

(Mr. Wilkinson, United States)

Territory (Administering Authority) activities can be handled either on the basis of contracting for services or by a representative from the solicitor's office of the Department of the Interior.

On a separate track from that, the Government of the Republic of Palau has an Attorney General and internal legal capabilities. We have encouraged the development of those capabilities within the Government of the Republic of Palau. If I understood the question rightly, there was an implication that diminishing the legal presence of the office in Saipan might have an adverse effect of some sort on the provision of appropriate legal services in Palau. Such is not the case, because of the development of appropriate legal services and a legal framework within, and overseen by, the Government of the Republic of Palau. For example, the Republic of Palau has one Attorney General and two Assistant Attorneys General who carry out those functions in Palau.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I must tell the representative of the United States that I am not a lawyer either and therefore may not use the proper terms in asking a question. But speaking from the standpoint of everyday logic, I believe that such a division between the place where something happens and where the case is examined is not always useful. That was the purport of my question.

I should like to ask a question in connection with the last paragraph in the left-hand column of page 17 of the Report. I shall again read it in English. It reads:

(spoke in English)

"The Department of Interior grant for fiscal year 1989 totalled $14.5 million for Palau operations. $300,000 was allotted to cover Palau's share of operational support for the College of Micronesia and $150,000 for satellite communications."

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

(continued in Russian)

I should like to know what happened to the rest of the money from the $14.5 million that was granted for operations in Palau. How was it spent? What kind of operations took up the rest of that money?

Ms. GUERRA (Special Adviser): In response to the question by the representative of the Soviet Union, I would note that the $14 million-plus he has pointed out is money for the operational grant of the administration of the Government of the Republic of Palau. That money also goes to fund education and health programmes that the Government provides for its people.

I would also add that on page 121 of the report there is a breakdown of revenues and moneys spent in Palau, which, besides the operational fund of $14.657 million, also include some federal grant funds in the amount of $9.67 million and some capital improvement funds that go for infrastructure.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am beholden to the delegation of the United States for the clarifications it has furnished.

The next matter of interest to us and my next question concern the following: On page 19 of the report, Table No. 2, we see that there is a rather considerable increase in total taxes collected in Palau. In 1989 the taxes increased by about $1 million as compared to the previous year, and we also note a significant increase as compared to the year before that. We should like to know what caused that increase in taxation. What kind of taxes are they - direct or indirect? Are they levied on the population or on businesses?

That leads to another question: How does that increase in taxes influence the indices of cost of living and quality of life in Palau?

Ms. GUERRA (Special Adviser): Let me clarify the discrepancy between the 1988 and 1989 taxes. The growth in economic revenues for Palau has been about a 10 per cent increase. Besides that, the Office of the Department of the Interior for Territorial and International Affairs has provided some technical assistance in the collection of taxes, which has meant an increase in gross receipts and the

(Ms. Guerra, Special Adviser)

collection of delinquent taxes, which also accounts for the difference between 1988 and 1989.

Mr. WILKINSON (United States of America): I should like to ask Mr. Uherbelau whether he would like to comment on the latter part of the question put by the representative of the Soviet Union concerning the impact, if any, of the improved or expanded tax collection on the quality of life or standard of living of the Territory.

Mr. UHERBELAU (Special Representative): As Secretary Guerra mentioned, the tax base did not actually increase. It is the stepped-up efforts in the collection of delinquent taxes that contributed to the increase in revenues. The people are not taxed any more this year than they were last year, and actually it does not have any significant effect on the life of the people. In other words, taxes were not increased and the increase did not affect individual citizens.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I do have other questions. I do not know whether I have wearied those here, but I think that full clarity about some of the matters discussed here is conducive to more thorough work and better decisions. I have another question directly related to a rather lengthy section of the report that deals with water supply in the Territory of Palau. There is probably no need to say that that problem is of interest and concern to the entire population. The report contains an enumeration of the most pressing issues relating to water supply. There is a discussion of what should be done to improve matters in the Territory, and we are told that improving the water supply will require both immediate capital investment and a long-term programme implemented over a two-year period.

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

To what extent do representatives of the local authorities, as well as representatives of the Administering Authority, concern themselves with this matter? Perhaps the representative of the Administering Authority in answering this question could also cover the period since the publication of the report. How much progress is being made towards improvement in the supply of water for the Palauan population?

Mr. UHERBELAU (Special Representative): There are ongoing programmes for repairing and improving the water system in Palau. We have public-works teams going around the hamlets looking for leaking pipes and repairing them, and recently they have installed water meters in every residential dwelling simultaneously with that work.

The Government of Japan has been requested to help investigate the entire water system in the Republic and see whether the system as a whole can be improved.

As Assistant Secretary Guerra mentioned in her statement yesterday, a team of operation and maintenance specialists has come around to look into this as a capital improvement project, to correct whatever deficiencies there may be at present.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Perhaps I did not quite catch everything Mr. Uherbelau said, but I should like not only information about how repairs to the water supply system are carried out on a day-to-day basis but also a broader analysis of the whole situation and information as to whether any measures are planned for the long term so that there will be no need to keep repairing the system on a day-to-day basis, so that it functions well and provides the necessary water to the population.

Mr. WILKINSON (United States of America): The information in the report applies to the period through 30 September 1989, and in view of the short time that has elapsed since then, the information about island-wide water programmes is still

(Mr. Wilkinson, United States)

current. That includes the identification of problem areas and questions that both the Government of the Republic of Palau and the Administering Authority will address in the process of developing programmes and budgets over time.

In that connection, the most relevant development has been the recent visit of Administering Authority officials in connection with the review of capital improvement projects, the area into which this matter falls and which was mentioned earlier by Assistant Secretary Guerra.

I do not think I can add more, given the short time since the end of the period covered by the report and the need for authorities both in Palau and in the United States to evaluate the recent team visit and to look at the situation. If there is news of further developments that is not available to me now, I shall give it later.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I understand that if there are further developments on this issue over the next few days, or later, the representative of the United States will inform the Council, as soon as possible.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am grateful for the information provided by the representative of the Administering Authority.

My next question relates to table 4 on page 32, concerning employment. We drew attention to such data last year. Apparently there have been no major changes in the overall employment picture since last year, so we continue to be struck by the fact that the table shows the total number of Palauan workers to be 1,200, while foreign workers, or non-resident workers, number 1,932, a larger number than that of the indigenous inhabitants employed.

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

I should be interested in hearing from the representative of the Administering Authority, and also from Mr. Uherbelau, if any measures are being taken in the Territory to change this adverse balance, as I might call it, and to promote the Palauan portion of the labour force; and is what underlies that adverse balance still in existence - in other words, is it still a fact that foreign workers are more highly qualified than the inhabitants of Palau? What is being done to ensure that the Palauans become more qualified in order to take their proper places in the life of their homeland?

Mr. WILKINSON (United States of America): I appreciate the interest of the representative of the Soviet Union in ascertaining how market economies work. There are particular provisions, I understand, in Palau to promote the employment of Palauans. I should like to ask Mr. Uherbelau to comment on that point.

Mr. UHERBELAU (Special Representative): Yes, it is true that the table shows that there are not only more alien workers than Palauans in the labour force - in fact, there are more Filipinos, as we look at the table, than Palauan workers in the labour force. These are skilled labourers who have been imported into the Republic to assist in the construction boom that is going on at the moment.

We have very strict labour laws and regulations. Before any alien worker is imported into Palau, there is a period of 30 days against the announcement for a particular job, and if the skill for that particular job is not locally available, then an alien worker is imported to fill the vacancy.

Let me read from the text itself as to the plans that we have for the future. At the bottom of page 32 the text reads:

(Mr. Uherbelau)

"The Division of Labor is making arrangement with ILO" - that is the International Labour Organisation - "and preparing to commence regional training, testing and certification project sometimes early next year. The new training scheme is sought with view toward certification of resident workers on various skills allowing them to compete with many island nations of the South Pacific Region including the Federated States of Micronesia. The project has shown good results in these areas." (Report: "1989 - Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, October 1, 1989 to September 30, 1989", p. 32)

We are very much aware of the labour situation at home, but there is no way at the moment that we can resolve it. We cannot turn away the labour that is needed from outside, but we do have some plans to train the local residents in the skills that are not available at the moment, so that they may take over the work that is being performed by the Filipinos.

Mr. WILKINSON (United States of America): I have one further point of information on the question, for the sake of completeness. On page 22 of the report it is also noted that the total government employment at the end of fiscal year 1989 was 1.472, so that that number should also be part of the picture of the employment of Palauans in Palau. The figures on page 32 refer, as is noted, only to the private sector.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am very grateful to the representative of the United States for the additional information he has provided, which supplemented what was said by Mr. Uherbelau.

I also wanted to refer to that paragraph he mentioned which mentions government employment and states that it has increased by 1 per cent over the previous year's level. As we agreed with the representative of the United States,

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

we have to look both at the work-force and at government employment in talking about employment in the Territory, and in this connection my question is: what is the share of Palauans in total government employment? Does he have such information? If he does not, then I shall not insist on an answer, but I think it would be interesting to know how many of the government posts are filled by Palauans.

Mr. UHERBELAU (Special Representative): I think it is safe to say that more than 98 per cent of government posts are occupied by Palauans. In the Attorney-General's office, as was mentioned this morning, we have three expatriate attorneys - three Americans - and five Palauans. I think there are two or three United States citizens in Finance. We have a couple of Filipino teachers in the high school, but less than 10, and two in Public Works. There are not more than 25 alien workers in the government sector.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I seem to have been taking up most of the Council's time, and I wonder whether I am not infringing upon others' opportunity to ask questions. If not, I should like to ask another question while other members ponder the questions they might like to ask.

Part VII of the report, "Social advancement", contains on page 46 a sub-section on human rights and fundamental freedoms, which lists provisions that guide the local authorities and the Administering Authority in their administration of the Territory. We should like to take a broader approach to this matter. Comparing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with the list on page 46, we note that not all the provisions of the Declaration are included in that list.

To what extent do the provisions referred to in the report reflect those of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights? What laws exist in the Trust Territory - and this is the main point of my question - to ensure implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

Mr. BALTON (Adviser): I am very pleased to respond to the question put by the representative of the Soviet Union. First, I might say that the list of human rights and fundamental freedoms appearing on page 46 was never intended to be exhaustive; it is set forth as the minimum human rights and fundamental freedoms applicable in the Trust Territory, which guide the Administering Authority in its administration of that Territory.

On the question of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as I am sure the representative of the Soviet Union knows, the Declaration was adopted by the General Assembly in 1948 and represents, by its own terms, a common standard of achievement for all people to aspire to. The United States has always supported the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the principles contained in it; we

(Mr. Balton, Adviser)

would do so in all fields, and in particular here in our administration of the Trust Territory.

Nevertheless, unlike many other instruments that have been negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations and its Commission on Human Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is not a treaty or a convention but is intended to furnish guidance and inspiration for the way in which Governments throughout the world should conduct themselves. But as the Declaration is a non-binding instrument, it is difficult to speak of implementing laws that are passed to give expression to its terms. Nevertheless, I feel confident in saying that the Constitution of the Republic of Palau and the Trust Territory Code, to the extent that the latter is still applicable, fully conform to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I thank the representative of the United States for his clarification.

I have a question relating to a matter that has come up often in the past couple of days: the development of tourism in the Trust Territory, which I believe to be among the major concerns of the people of Palau and which is likely to play a large part in the further development of the Territory. What measures are currently being taken by the Administering Authority to promote the development of this important area of life in Palau, and what measures are planned to help the local authorities in Palau to ensure adequate development in this area of the economy?

Mr. WILKINSON (United States of America): The activities that are promoting tourism, whether in Palau or the Soviet Union, are multifaceted. I would draw the attention of the representative of the Soviet Union to table 14, on page 128, which shows an extensive expansion of tourist arrivals over the last year as a demonstration that plans, measures and activities are under way.

Perhaps the representative of the Soviet Union was not present in the Chamber at the time, but I would recall that Mr. Uherbelau's opening statement contained information in that regard and the very active programme under way. The tables that follow on table 14 also give information on the number of hotels and so on.

With respect to the activities of the Administering Authority, I am not sure what is to be said other than that we do support and encourage those activities which facilitate the expansion of tourism and would work closely to the extent that we are engaged in the development of budgets and projects that are relevant, and so on, with the Government of the Republic of Palau.

The question was addressed to us as the Administering Authority, but as I have noted, and as I believe Mr. Uherbelau noted in his statement, this is something with which the Government of the Republic is actively seized. Assistant Secretary Guerra would like to add a comment, also on behalf of the Administering Authority.

Ms. GUERRA (Special Adviser): Let me also add that, besides our encouraging Palau in its participation in regional tourism activities, and the Office of Territorial and International Affairs being prepared to provide technical assistance in studies to promote tourism, in November of 1989 I invited a Palauan representative as my adviser, to participate in the United States-Japan bilateral civil aviation talks, as well as seeking their request for the United States-Korean talks, as we promote tourism in Palau by encouraging air service between those nations and the Republic of Palau.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Does the representative of the Soviet Union wish to speak again?

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Madam President, I felt an undercurrent in your last question. Thank you, nevertheless, for calling on me.

Once again I should like to say I am grateful for the clarification I received from the delegation of the Administering Authority, in particular the last statement made by Ms. Guerra, because, as far as the tables to which the representative of the United States referred me are concerned, I have seen them and studied them, but they only show the number of tourists last year. They do not tell us what measures are being taken to develop that sector of the Palauan economy. That is why I asked my question.

As far as your hint is concerned, Madam President, I think we can now propose that other delegations make their contributions to the consideration of the report of the Administering Authority at this session. I would certainly not want to provoke any further hints. Thus, for the time being, I shall abstain from asking further questions.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of the Soviet Union, and I deeply regret it if I was misunderstood in the way I called on him. It will be understood that the President can only be extremely happy when delegations take an active part in the debate and consideration of items on the Trusteeship Council's agenda. I congratulate the delegation of the Soviet Union for its important contribution this morning, and I certainly hope we shall continue thus until the end of our session.

Time is passing, and I would ask if other delegations wish to address this point. The matter remains open, in any case. Delegations will be able to speak and to ask questions of the Administering Authority tomorrow or the day after, since the item is still before us.

Mr. LU Yongshou (China) (interpretation from Chinese): Madam President, at the outset the Chinese delegation wishes to congratulate you on your election to preside over the Trusteeship Council, and we would also take this opportunity to congratulate the Vice-President, the British representative.

Before coming to my question I should like to say that in February of this year, for the first time, the Chinese delegation participated in the Visiting Mission to Palau. The Palauan Government and people gave us a warm welcome, and we thank them.

The other members of the Mission and the Secretariat personnel gave us very good co-operation, for which we express our gratitude.

I have just one question, a very simple one: at our meetings yesterday and today, petitioners asked some questions.

(Mr. Lu Yongshou, China)

They have some complaints as to the measures taken by the Administering Authority about the economic development of Palau. For instance, they hope that the Administering Authority will help to build roads in the Territory.

The Chinese delegation would like to know whether the Administering Authority has taken any measures. That is my question.

Mr. WILKINSON (United States of America): I appreciate the interest expressed by the representative of China and, as we stated previously, we warmly welcome the participation of China in such activities as the Visiting Mission.

If I understood the question correctly, it flowed from a number of comments and comments in the form of questions from the several petitioners we have heard. It has been the practice - as I understand it, not having been here myself - of the Administering Authority to respond to petitioners with a general statement at the end of the hearing of petitioners. In other words, after the last petitioner has made his or her statement we as the Administering Authority will endeavour to respond to the concerns raised by them. We would propose that that pattern be followed again this year, and since there are other petitioners to be heard I expect that once any further petitioners who come forward are heard next week we shall, as in the past, respond.

So to the extent that the question of the Chinese representative was addressed to our responding to the concerns expressed by petitioners I would propose doing that next week. If, however, the representative of China would like me to respond at this point to particular questions from his delegation as opposed to seeking answers to the petitioners, I would be glad to take questions of particular interest to him.

Mr. LU Yongshou (China) (interpretation from Chinese): I thank the representative of the United States for his explanation.

(Mr. Lu Yongshou, China)

Since time is running short I would like to wait until a later stage of the session for the explanation by the United States representative.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Does any delegation wish to speak further to this item this morning? In view of the relatively late hour, I wonder if we could postpone until tomorrow consideration of the next agenda item, namely, "Report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Observe the Plebiscite in Palau, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, February 1990". Unless I hear any objection from the Council, I propose to cancel this afternoon's meeting so that various delegations will have time to prepare themselves for additional questions they may wish to put to the Administering Authority. At the same time we shall then be able to study the report of the Visiting Mission to Palau, as all these questions are indeed related, and have an opportunity to seek the United States delegation's views on the results of the plebiscite of February 1990.

Therefore I suggest that we not meet this afternoon, unless, of course, any delegation should insist that we do so. I am at the Council's disposal, but if I hear no specific objection, or in the absence of any comment to the contrary, we shall proceed accordingly and hold the next meeting tomorrow morning, at 10.30.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): First, we shall then continue our consideration of agenda item 4, namely, Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 September 1989: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. As was the case this morning, members of the Council will be free to put questions to the representatives of the Administering Authority.

Secondly, we shall begin the consideration of written petitions. I draw members' attention to document T/INF/38, which contains a list of written

(The President)

communications and petitions received by the Trusteeship Council since its last session.

Thirdly, we shall take up the report of the Visiting Mission.

Fourthly, we shall go on to item 8, Dissemination of information on the United Nations, and, in due course, item 7, Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Trust Territories.

Are there any comments or objections on this programme of work for tomorrow? Since there is none, the next meeting of the Council will be held tomorrow morning, at 10.30.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.

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Fifty-seventh session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SIXTEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 23 May 1990, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mrs. GAZEAU-SECRET (France)

- Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 September 1989: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (continued)
- Examination of petitions
- Report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Observe the Plebiscite in Palau, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (continued)
- Offers by member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Trust Territories: report of the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolutions 557 (VI) and 753 (VIII))

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Any corrections to the records of the meetings of this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

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The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

EXAMINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1989: TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (T/1944) (continued)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Members will recall that at our meeting yesterday we decided to take up certain items this morning, the first being agenda item 4 in order to continue the discussion begun yesterday.

I shall now call on those members of the Council who wish to put questions to the representatives of the Administering Authority.

Mr. MENAT (France) (interpretation from French): Since this is the first time my delegation has had the honour of speaking at this session of the Council, I should like to congratulate you, Madam President, on your election to the presidency of the Trusteeship Council. We are very pleased to be working under your guidance. I wish also to congratulate Mr. Thomas Richardson on his election to the vice-presidency.

The French delegation has carefully studied the report of the Administering Authority. We thank the United States delegation in particular for making the report available to us so much earlier than it did last year. We received the report a month earlier than was the case last year, and were thus able to consider it thoroughly, as appropriate.

(Mr. Menat, France)

We have two questions on specific matters in the report. The first deals with Part VIII, Educational Advancement. We have examined the tables on page 68 of the report, and - as the report itself points out - we noted that there has been a drop in the number of persons enrolled in secondary public schools. An explanation is given in the report, which says that a number of students had enrolled in other schools outside of the Territory. My delegation would like to hear the views of the Administering Authority with regard to the causes for that phenomenon. Is there a feeling that this will continue? Are measures being considered to deal with the phenomenon - the fact that students are enrolling in schools outside Palau?

My second question concerns the very complete tables at the end of the report. Table Number 29 on page 137 reflects the number of deaths in the Territory. In 1988 the number of deaths increased, from 96 to 112. That is not an enormous leap numerically, but it is a considerable increase in percentage. Table 24 on page 134 gives deaths by cause, and from it we can see that the increase is due to an increase in one category, "Symptoms, Signs and Ill-defined Conditions", in which the numbers have increased from 8 to 26. I wonder if the phenomenon can be explained and if any reason can be given for this development?

Those are the two questions my delegation wishes to raise in connection with the report of the Administering Authority.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of France for the kind words he addressed to me. I call upon the United States delegation to respond to his questions.

Mr. UHERBELAU (Special Representative): With respect to the students who enroll outside of Palau rather than attending local public schools, I can assure the Council that this is not an exodus of students leaving home. Certain parents would rather send their children to study in Guam or even Saipan or the Northern

(Mr. Uherbelau, Special Representative)

Marianas. That is by choice. Actually, some Palauans themselves have also migrated to Guam and to the Northern Marianas, and naturally their children of high-school age will go with them. The other aspect to the question is that in addition to the Palau public high-schools there are also four additional private schools, and some students drop out from the public high-schools to go to the private schools. One of those private schools is run by the Catholic Mission, two are run by the Protestant Mission and one is run by the Seventh-Day Adventists. I hope that that is an adequate answer to the question of the representative of France.

As to the increase in the death rate, I would refer the French representative to page 53 of the report, where there is a brief explanation of the deaths by age group. As indicated there, 56 per cent of the deaths occurred within the age group 65 years or older. That is death by natural causes and old age. Again, it represents an increase of less than 20 or 30 people, and the Council should not be alarmed that the Republic is plagued with diseases that cannot be controlled.

Mr. SMITH (United Kingdom): I have one question related to some information which appears to have been omitted from this year's report of the Administering Authority. In the Secretariat working paper on conditions in the Trust Territory, T/L.1274, paragraph 91 refers to the United States Department of Defense Civic Action Program in Palau. The information is very interesting, but it appears to have been based on previous reports, and my delegation would like to have an update on the activities of the Civic Action Program.

Mr. UHERBELAU (Special Representative): The Civic Action Team still consists of 13 men. Each member of the Civic Action Team serves a term of one year, and they keep changing: those who finish will go and the new recruits will come in to replace the old ones. The number has never gone up or down from that

(Mr. Uherbelau, Special Representative)

figure of 13. This year, as in previous years, the Civic Action Teams are utilized to support small construction projects in the outlying areas. In the large island, Babelthuap, the Civic Action Team is also requested by religious organizations, such as schools, to do some small improvement projects for them: extending classrooms and renovating roofs and things like that.

Mr. SMITH (United Kingdom): I should just like to ask a brief follow-up question. As I understand it, the members of the Civic Action Program are in fact members of the United States military. Given the interest which the Council in the past has taken in military activities in Palau, I should like to know whether there are any other such activities taking place in Palau at the moment.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Does the United States delegation wish to respond to the question of the representative of the United Kingdom?

Mr. WILKINSON (United States of America): In connection with continuing speculation outside the Chamber, as well as with the question about United States military activities in Palau, I should like to take the opportunity to assure the Council that we are aware of continuing speculation regarding potential military bases on Palau and wish to state emphatically that we do not - I repeat, we do not - have any so-called fall-back plans involving Palau at the present time.

As was just mentioned, there is a 13-person Navy Civic Action Team performing public projects under local control. This constitutes the full United States military presence in the Territory for now and for the foreseeable future.

We also wish to point out that the United States has never exercised any of the military access rights in Palau granted to us as Administering Authority.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): If no other delegation has any questions to raise, I would suggest that we continue our consideration of this item at a later meeting.

EXAMINATION OF PETITIONS (see T/INF/38)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We shall now proceed to examine written petitions and communications concerning the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

(The President)

Members of the Council will recall that in 1988 we had decided to request the Secretariat to publish a list of petitions and communications received between sessions of the Trusteeship Council, with a summary of their contents, instead of having all the documents issued in their entirety in the official languages, which obviously would be most costly for the Organization. The list for the period covered at this session is contained in document T/INF/38, which the Secretariat distributed to us about two weeks ago. It appears that this list is issued in order to facilitate our work, but the texts of the petitions and communications are normally distributed to members of the Council as they are received by the Secretariat throughout the year. If some delegations do not have all of the communications and petitions sent to the Secretariat, the originals of these documents are available to them at the Secretariat. In addition, I believe that copies of the documents were distributed to delegations this morning. It seems to me that delegations have had sufficient time to read the documents, either during the year or else this morning, so that we can now begin consideration of the texts.

I would suggest that, as usual, we should consider them in groups. Document T/INF/38 can be quite useful in this respect and help us to see matters more clearly. Thus, if there is no objection, I suggest that we should take up these petitions and communications in five or six groups, and, as we examine them, I would ask for comments from delegations.

Is this procedure acceptable to delegations?

There being no objection, we shall begin our consideration with the first four communications set forth on pages 1 and 2 of document T/INF/38, after which we shall move on to consider the petitions.

Does any member wish to comment on these communications?

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like to say a few words not about the contents of the petitions but about the procedure we are to follow as we go through them. It is not quite clear to me how we will consider the petitions. Is it expected that the Administering Authority's reaction to the petitions will be made known to us now, as we consider them, or is it expected that a different approach will be taken? I should appreciate clarification of the procedure.

Mr. WILKINSON (United States of America): In response to the question from the representative of the Soviet Union, we, as representatives of the Administering Authority, would propose that we follow the procedures of past years. I can assure the Council that the United States has given serious and thorough consideration to the petitions, both oral and written, that have been submitted, and we propose to make a comprehensive statement with respect to the entire body of petitions at an appropriate juncture, once all petitions have been received. I refer to the expectation that next week we will have oral presentations by one or more petitioners who were not able to be present this week.

In the course of the session I will take note of specific interests that are expressed, as I did yesterday in connection with a point made by our colleague from China, and make sure that we include appropriate comments on the petitions as a whole. I hope that is acceptable.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I am in the Council's hands. Is the proposal of the Administering Authority, which is apparently based on past custom here, acceptable to the other delegations? If I understand correctly, it means that the Administering Authority will make one or two statements early next week, once all the petitioners have addressed the Council, and that the Administering Authority will duly take into consideration the various questions delegations raise today, or tomorrow if they wish, relating to the written petitions. The statement of the Administering Authority will, I presume, be a fairly full and lengthy one. This will not, of course, prevent any delegation from speaking after the Administering Authority has made that statement.

Is that acceptable to all delegations?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Resuming our consideration of document T/INF/38, it does not give the contents of the written communications and petitions, so we must refer to the texts of the petitions submitted to the Secretariat in the course of the year. I believe all delegations received copies of them this morning, so we should be able to proceed with our work today and to know what we are dealing with.

Those delegations that wish to do so may now comment upon communications 1 through 4 in document T/INF/38, pages 1 and 2. The senders of the communications are Mr. Watanabe, Mr. Koshiba, Mr. Watanabe and Mr. Koshiba respectively. The communications were sent to the Secretariat on 16 May, 5 September, 20 September and 13 October 1989. The first deals with general issues, including, in particular, the way in which the United States Government is honouring its obligations and commitments under the Trusteeship Agreement; the second deals with a specific matter, the arrest of Palauans in connection with drug-related offences; the third with technical and financial assistance provided by the United States to remedy certain problems in Palau; and the fourth with the provisions of the referendum law adopted by the Palau Congress on the Compact and how the United States Government intends to take action on the provisions.

I believe that the February plebiscite led to some comments by petitioners, which to some extent might have been overtaken by subsequent events.

Are there any comments on those four communications?

Mr. MENAT (France) (interpretation from French): I refer to communication number 3, on a Senate joint resolution. I would ask the Administering Authority whether any action has been taken or is under consideration in response to the request on page 2 of the resolution relating to a request for

(Mr. Menat, France)

technical and financial assistance for entities responsible for the implementation of Palau laws, particularly in the criminal area.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I take it that the United States delegation has duly noted the comments of the representative of France.

Are there other comments? It appears not. We shall therefore proceed to consider petitions 1 through 10. The titles, senders and dates are given in document T/INF/38, on pages 3 and 4. Are there any comments on petitions 1 through 10?

Mr. SMITH (United Kingdom): Now that we have turned to the petitions, I would like to ask for clarification as to the manner in which the Secretariat normally replies to such petitions following discussion by the Council.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Mr. de Souza, the Council's Secretary, will respond to the representative of the United Kingdom.

Mr. De SOUZA (Secretary of the Council) (interpretation from French): Normally, the Secetariat sends the appropriate verbatim records of the Council to each petitioner after the session.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I would remind delegations that our verbatim records cover all of these statements in full.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like to follow up on the question just raised by the representative of the United Kingdom. I would appreciate information on how the situation stood this year with respect to the adoption of measures regarding petitions. As I understand it, petitions addressed only to the Secretariat and received by it are distributed to members of the Trusteeship Council. If on any particular petition or communication the Administering Authority reacts immediately and does not wait for the session of the Trusteeship Council - which meets just once a year - then probably such actions are reported by the Administering Authority to the Secretariat of the Trusteeship Council, and probably such things must be recorded in some way. It is my understanding that, in principle, the Administering Authority must react or respond immediately to communications it receives direct from the Trust Territory, and other communications. I should like to know whether or not there have been any changes from last year in this respect.

I asked this question because it would seem that the Secretariat of the Trusteeship Council can probably respond before the session of the Council if, in respect of any petition or communication, any measures or action have been taken. I do not know to what extent this agrees with the practice in the Secretariat, and that is why I am requesting clarification.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Perhaps the representative of the Administering Authority would wish to respond to the comments made by the representative of the Soviet Union?

Mr. WILKINSON (United States of America): That is a general and hypothetical question raised by the representative of the Soviet Union and, if I understand it correctly, I would describe our practice as Administering Authority

(Mr. Wilkinson, United States)

in the following terms: to the extent that the communications or petitions addressed to the Council are either copies of or parallel to requests or notifications or information brought at the same time or in similar fashion directly to the attention of the Administering Authority, or any entity of the Administering Authority, we would, of course, respond in the direct channel, that is to say, to the extent that an elected representative of the Government of the Republic of Palau would send the communication to a government department in Washington and a copy to the Trusteeship Council. The government department in Washington would respond directly to the person in Palau and would not, in the normal course of events, inform the Trusteeship Council at the same time unless there was particular reason to do so. When the parallel petition or communication is carried forward to be addressed in this context, it would then be responded to as part of our general response, and the communication to the petitioner of records of the Council's action would, as mentioned by the Secretary of the Council, then complete what is a rather long sequence.

To the extent that the petitions addressed to the Trusteeship Council are commenting on our policies or actions, we would normally address them at the earliest time that they appear on the agenda of the Council in session. Obviously, there is a rule of common sense that would apply, to the extent that in the case of any petition involving some sort of immediate action in the interests of the health, welfare or safety of an individual, or something like that, we would not wish to wait until the Council came into session. But, without again reviewing this immediate list from this perspective, I am not aware of a communication or petition of that type which would have been addressed to the Council.

I hope that responds to the question.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of the United States for that clarification.

About the role of the Secretariat, various rules in the rules of procedure of the Council deal with the matter of dissemination of written petitions - rule 85, for instance. That being so, and in the light of what the delegation of the United States has said, I do not think we can go further on this score, unless the representative of the Soviet Union wishes to speak again?

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am quite satisfied with the reply of the representative of the Administering Authority, and I agree that the main thing is, of course, that measures should be taken on the documents that come in, without waiting for the session of the Trusteeship Council. That was the purport of my original question.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Note is taken of the remarks of the Soviet representative, especially as concerns the preparation of the Trusteeship Council's report.

We shall now proceed to consider the petitions, group by group.

Are there any comments on petitions 1 to 66? I shall give the Council a little time to study these documents.

(The President)

As there are no comments or questions at this stage, I propose that the Council decide to draw the attention of the petitioners to the observations which will be made by the Administering Authority following the examination of oral petitions and to observations made by other members of the Council at the current session, taking special account in our report of the request by the representative of the Soviet Union.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Petitions 64 and 66 refer to requests for hearing from Mr. Roger Clark and Mrs. Cita Morei respectively. As members will recall, the Council heard their oral petitions at its 1675th meeting. At the same meeting it was agreed that Mr. Glenn Alcalay, whose request for hearing appears in petition 65, would be heard at a future meeting - as I understand it, next Tuesday or Wednesday. Only after we have heard Mr. Alcalay and the response of the Administering Authority will we have completed consideration of this agenda item.

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO OBSERVE THE PLEBISCITE IN PALAU, TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (T/1942) (continued)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Members will recall that the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission was introduced by the Vice-Chairman of the Visiting Mission at the Council's 1674th meeting.

Does any member wish to make comments or ask questions on the report of the Visiting Mission? Members may of course make statements on this item at a later meeting.

Mr. WILKINSON (United States of America): I do not in fact have a question, so I hope I have not asked to speak under false pretences. But I wanted to take the opportunity to express again my delegation's appreciation to

(Mr. Wilkinson, United States)

participants in the Visiting Mission for their careful attention to their responsibilities, for the prompt provision of a full report and for their continuing interest in Palau and their co-operation throughout.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): As President I should like to echo the remarks made by the representative of the United States. We appreciated the way in which the Visiting Mission was conducted, and we found the report to be very interesting. It is an important document, and members may have some useful comments to make on it in due course.

OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF TRUST TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 557 (VI) AND 753 (VIII)) (T/1948)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I take it that delegations have studied the report of the Secretary-General (T/1948) dated 16 May 1990. Does any member wish to comment on the report of the Secretary-General?

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In connection with the report of the Secretary-General, one may conclude that opportunities for study and training offered by Member States to inhabitants of Trust Territories are, to say the least, not fully utilized.

We know the situation in the Trust Territory. Yesterday we spoke of the statistics contained in the Administering Authority's report. We noted the significant prevalence of foreign skilled workers in the Trust Territory, and we said that opportunities for study and training offered to the inhabitants of the Trust Territory should be utilized as widely and as fully as possible. I drew attention to the fact that in the Secretary-General's report on this matter we read that

> "Information on scholarships made available under the programme is included in the twenty-sixth edition of Study Abroad ... published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)." (T/1948, para. 9)

It is further stated that

> "Copies of Study Abroad are sent to the Administering Authority and to United Nations information centres". (ibid.)

Unfortunately, in the report on the dissemination of information about the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System as it applies to the Pacific Islands, which is the next report on our agenda that we are going to take up, I did not see any mention of dissemination of that document to the Trust Territory. In this connection, I should like to ask the representative of the Administering Authority how seriously the data at the disposal of the United Nations concerning opportunities to obtain study and training facilities are taken. I ask this question because in the Secretary-General's report we see a rather lengthy list of States offering fellowships to the inhabitants of the Trust

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

Territory. The report contains no indication that students from the Territory are studying in those countries.

Mr. WILKINSON (United States of America): First, I should like to assure the Council, in particular the representative of the Soviet Union, that the United States as the Administering Authority ensures citizens of the Trust Territory the same freedom to accept offers of educational programmes as are available to our own citizens. I also believe that potential students in Palau are made aware of possibilities for various scholarship or study opportunities abroad. The major consideration in the question asked by the representative of the Soviet Union is that, by and large, the students that are potentially interested in studying abroad would look in the first instance to English-language training, that being the common foreign language, and in an entity as small as Palau, obviously the opportunities to use other foreign languages would be limited.

Hence the majority of students travelling abroad for further study would go to places such as the United States, Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): As there are no further speakers on this item, I would suggest that the Council should decide to take note of the report of the Secretary-General in document T/1948.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We shall not this morning take up the item on dissemination of information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in Trust Territory because the person in charge in the Department of Public Information has informed us that he could speak to us only this afternoon or tomorrow morning.

If there are no other speakers on other items, I shall adjourn this meeting.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.

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Fifty-seventh session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SIXTEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 24 May 1990, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mrs. GAZEAU-SECRET (France)

- Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 September 1989: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (continued)

- Examination of petitions (continued)

- Report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Observe the Plebiscite in Palau, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (continued)

- Dissemination of information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in Trust Territories: report of the Secretary-General (Trusteeship Council resolution 36 (III) and General Assembly resolution 754 (VIII))

/...

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- Co-operation with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolutions 2106 B (XX) and 44/68)

- Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolutions 3057 (XXVIII) and 44/52)

- Attainment of self-government or independence by the Trust Territories (Trusteeship Council resolution 1369 (XVII) and General Assembly resolution 1413 (XIV)) and the situation in the Trust Territories with regard to the implementation of the declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples (General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 44/101)

- Co-operation with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI))

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

EXAMINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1989: TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (continued)

EXAMINATION OF PETITIONS (T/INF/38) (continued)

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO OBSERVE THE PLEBISCITE IN PALAU, TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, FEBRUARY 1990 (T/1942)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Council will continue its examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. As agreed yesterday, we shall now proceed with the questioning of the representatives of the Administering Authority. If members so wish, we can at the same time consider the report of the Visiting Mission to Palau.

Are there any comments on the report of the Visiting Mission, or would members prefer to continue our consideration of the annual report of the Administering Authority?

It appears no representatives wish to speak at this time on either of these two agenda items. Do representatives have any further comments at this stage of our work with regard to the examination of petitions? Delegations will recall that the examination of petitions cannot be concluded today because some petitioners have asked to be given an opportunity to speak early next week. If no member wishes to speak with regard to petitions today, it will be possible to do so next week.

If there is no objection, I would suggest we keep these items under consideration next week. With regard to the examination of petitions, we shall hear the last petitioner next week, and we shall also hear the comments of the Administering Authority in that connection.

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEESHIP SYSTEM IN TRUST TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL RESOLUTION 36 (III) AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 754 (VIII)) (T/1947)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I suggest that we now hear Mr. Joe Sills, representative of the Department of Public Information. I am pleased to welcome him to the Council, and would recall that Mr. Sills is here to present to us the Secretary-General's report on agenda item 8, contained in document T/1947 of 16 May 1990.

I call on Mr. Sills.

Mr. SILLS (Department of Public Information): It is a pleasure to address the Trusteeship Council and to present the report of the Secretary-General on the dissemination of information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in Trust Territories.

I do not have a formal statement but would like simply to make a few remarks about the report in a fairly consecutive fashion, following the order of the report, and to amplify on a couple of things. I shall then be happy to answer any questions members might have.

As paragraph 2 notes, the Department of Public Information continues to service and communicate with the area of the Trust Territory primarily through our Information Centre in Tokyo. Over the years we have sought to have the Director of the Centre visit the area and get a first-hand view of what is necessary in terms of information regarding the United Nations in the area and what is within the capabilities of the Department.

The last visit made by a Centre Director was in January 1988, which was a while ago. The post of Director of the Information Centre in Tokyo has been vacant for some time, but we have selected a Director for the Centre, and he will be

(Mr. Sills)

assuming his office next month. Very high on his agenda - assuming we can work it into a very squeezed budget; we certainly will make every effort - will be a visit by the Director of the Tokyo Information Centre to the area to make a first-hand evaluation of the needs and requirements.

The distribution of information to the area is done primarily through the Centre in Tokyo. I would, however, point out that a number of United Nations agencies and programmes send their materials directly to the area. Just as we have a non-centralized United Nations system, we have a non-centralized information programme within the different parts of the United Nations system, and many of the agencies and programmes of the United Nations distribute their information products widely throughout the world without going through the Department of Public Information because they are independent operations. We are not in a position to know exactly what they send, but we do know from anecdotal information that a good bit of material is distributed in the area.

Paragraph 3 of the Secretary-General's report refers to the documents of the Trusteeship Council that were distributed, and on page 5 there is a list of those documents. I am told by the Trusteeship Council staff that, as I am sure members are aware, the names of the 33 recipients are available to any member of the Council who wishes to have that information.

At previous meetings of the Council it has been emphasized that radio programmes are a very important element, perhaps the most important element, of the Information Programme. We have made an effort to expand what we are doing in the radio area. Just recently I spoke with the Director of our Information Products Division, Mr. Leclere, who, on a visit to Tokyo spent a good deal of time discussing with the officer-in-charge - we only have an officer-in-charge at the

(Mr. Sills)

Tokyo Centre - the distribution programme for the Trust Territory and how it could be expanded and strengthened.

The list of stations to which we are currently giving or sending radio programmes is in paragraph 6, to which I should like to make one correction. I am informed that station "WTPL in Kosrae" does not exist. I really cannot tell the Council how we have been distributing to a non-existent station; I shall to ask the magicians in my radio unit. It should be deleted. We would also like to note that, in response to a specific question that has been raised in the past about distribution to the Northern Mariana Islands, which had not been included in previous reports. We had begun distribution to station WSZE in Saipan, but I am now informed that it has gone under. But there are some other stations in that area, and we will be in touch with them to see if we can replace the station we had in Saipan that was receiving our programmes. The balance of the list is in paragraph 6.

Paragraph 7 mentions video cassettes and film programmes. I fear I must ask the indulgence of members to make a correction in this regard too, for which I apologize. Beginning on the fourth line of that paragraph, the text should read "Since May 1989, every two weeks, three VHS copies of the UN in Action video programme ... have been sent to the Trust Territory": three copies, not four. They have gone to WAAB TV in Yap, WSIB TV in Palau, and the Saipan Cable TV Network.

(Mr. Sills)

The programme entitled The United Nations in Action - which, incidentally, some members may have seen - is carried around the world by the Cable News Network. It is a weekly programme of three to four minutes which highlights whatever is, in our view, the most newsworthy and important event happening at the United Nations that week. So it is very much of a news item, and we do not know what will be on it until just before it is filmed and we see what the current news at the United Nations is.

I will come to the printed materials in more detail in just a minute. They are reviewed in part in paragraph 9 and in the annex.

Paragraph 10 deals with the role of the officer in charge of the United Nations Information Centre at Tokyo and his continuing contact, and, of course, our desire to make another visit to the Territory as soon as possible.

On paragraph 11, at the previous meeting the Department was requested by one of the members of the Council to assemble a file of all of the information materials that had been distributed over the period in question. This file has been assembled. It is a rather large box and is rather heavy, but it has copies of everything that has been distributed and is available, as mentioned, in the office of the secretariat of the Council for any members who wish to review it, and following their review, if there are any questions about any of the materials, we will be happy to discuss them.

Let me turn to the annex for just one moment. I repeat that these are the newly produced materials within the time span covered that have been distributed in the area. We have instructed regularly - and this has been reported to the Council - that the Information Centres, not just for Tokyo and the Territory but throughout the world, should make available at all times such standing or constantly usable materials as copies of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and, of particular interest to some members,

(Mr. Sills)

the Declaration on decolonization, and these items, and even though they are not listed in the current year's output they have been distributed and are accessible. We check this constantly, and these materials are replenished as they are needed, not only in the Trust Territory but in all of the Information Centres of the United Nations.

There is one thing I wanted to come back to that I missed in going through the report, namely, paragraph 4 on the first page. This is a bit of a red flag on the press releases, and I would assure the native English speakers that we are not showing favouritism to the French-speaking delegations by putting out more releases in French than in English. In fact, in the calendar year 1989 there were exactly 16 in each language. This is more of a production situation. If a release does not totally get out one day and part of it comes out the next day, it is numbered separately, but the meetings covered in the press releases are the same. This does not mean that we covered two meetings in French that we did not cover in English. It is a function of the production process.

Let me conclude by noting one or two general points. We continue to feel, and to agree with what has been expressed in previous meetings of the Council, that radio service to the area is perhaps the most effective public-information tool we have available; we will continue to seek to expand it and to make more programmes available on a regular basis. We are now making four programmes available, three weekly and one monthly, as compared with three in the report last year, and if feasible, we shall continue to expand the service. I must confess to the Council, as I said last year - and again this is not true just for the Territory but for the Department's audience as a whole - we still do not have what we regard as a suitable and effective evaluation mechanism. At this point, about the best we can say is that we send the programmes out, we send out questionnaires, we ask for

(Mr. Sills)

feedback as to whether or not they are being played, and we are normally told that they are being used. We have no way of verifying this, and we do not have the funds or facilities for on-air checks to make sure on a regular basis that this is being done. We are not happy with this, and I certainly would appreciate suggestions from members if they feel that there needs to be a more systematic method of making sure that the materials which are sent to the area are actually used.

I think that is all I would like to say by way of introduction.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Does any delegation wish to make comments on the report of the Secretary-General?

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): First, I should like to express our satisfaction at the fact that the Department of Public Information has heeded the appeal of the Trusteeship Council and, as is pointed out in paragraph 11 of the report, has assembled a file of information on materials which are being distributed in the Trust Territory.

Our delegation is also pleased with the latest statement made by the representative of the Department of Public Information on the Department's concern at the lack of effective machinery to evaluate the use of this material. As is well known, this is also a matter of concern to the Trusteeship Council, and in this connection, we should like to hear from the representative of the Department of Public Information not only about its concern but also about any ideas it may have as to how to correct the situation. Obviously, the people directly involved in an activity would be experts on it and would have some kind of idea as to how to remedy the situation, and if they needed the assistance of the Trusteeship Council in this regard, it would probably be forthcoming. That is my first comment, and I

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should like to hear from the representative of the Department of Public Information as to what possibilities there might be to correct the situation.

My second question is the following: we have also drawn attention to the fact that in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General no mention is made of the distribution of basic materials - of standing or constantly usable materials, as they were called by Mr. Sills, the representative of the Department of Public Information - such as the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and no doubt many other documents of fundamental importance to the United Nations and to Member States.

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We are not entirely satisfied with Mr. Sills's statement in this connection to the effect that these basic materials are always in sufficient supply and are constantly being supplemented. If we are talking about difficulties in determining what use is made of those materials in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, even those which are sent and recorded, then it seems that some additional measures should be taken in order to find out to what extent the addressees have been receiving that literature.

I should like to know from the representative of the Department of Public Information, at least approximately whether he knows, for the current year, how many of these basic documents were sent to the Trust Territory to supplement the stock of those materials in the Territory. I am saying this because at the last session of the Trusteeship Council, last year, attention was drawn to this, in particular by the Soviet delegation.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Personally, I think this is an important question, as important as the one we are dealing with now, namely, the dissemination of information regarding the purposes and objectives of the Trusteeship System of the United Nations in Palau. We are interested, not only in the dissemination of the information, but also in an evaluation of the way it is disseminated, namely, what is happening in the field. In the final analysis that is what is of interest to us, and I fully understand the comments just made by the Soviet representative.

It seems to me that when the Trusteeship Council decides to send missions to the field they too can contribute to greater knowledge of the United Nations, the reason for the Trusteeship System, and perhaps the discussion could be expanded somewhat; rather than talking about documents we could talk about how those who are on the scene perceive things, how they feel about things. We are talking about the report of the visiting mission - I know the one that took place in February of this

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year was quite specific: it had to do with the plebiscite - but in recent years there have been a number of other missions and the fact that inhabitants of Palau meet with delegations sent by the Trusteeship Council seems to me an excellent means of evaluating the situation on the spot. If delegations have comments in that connection I would be pleased to hear them.

Meanwhile, I call again on the representative of the Department of Public Information, who may have some additional comments to make in response to the comments of the Soviet delegation.

Mr. SILLS (Department of Public Information): I should like to thank the representative of the Soviet Union for expressing his satisfaction with the overall content of the report, as presented by the Department.

As regards the two specific questions, the evaluation of information materials and the use made of it, this is a very difficult and very expensive process. For instance, with the help of the British Broadcasting Corporation, without which we could not have done it, we in the Department have just done an evaluation in the front-line States and in South Africa of the materials we were producing against apartheid and of the listening audience for United Nations materials in the various languages. This is a complicated process. It involves getting a sampling that is large enough to be statistically valid. It is labour-intensive to talk to people. It costs money and it is difficult. I would indeed welcome, as the President has suggested, hearing of any way that the Department could perhaps work with the Council, in the context of a future mission or in any other context, to look at the question of effectiveness and evaluation.

If one is to do anything that is statistically valid on radio or television there has to be some sort of audience survey, to find out if the materials are of use to them. We have not even been able in many areas - and I readily admit this; not proudly, but readily - to determine whether the materials that we send out, the

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radio programmes on cassettes, are actually regularly played on the stations. We deal with all of the stations. We talk to all of them. We send them questionnaires and in most cases they indicate that they are receiving our materials, that they like them and are playing them regularly. But in most cases we do not have any way of verifying this ourselves. There may be a few of those people who simply enjoy getting the cassettes and they may erase our material and then have a cassette for their own use. I do not know for sure, but I suspect that happens on occasion. But we are working hard, within the Department, to improve our evaluation methods, and I think the suggestion that the President made, that we should look at how this could be done jointly or co-operatively, is one worth pursuing.

On printed material, one can do a little better as regards dissemination - and once again I must tell the Council that I asked our Tokyo office to let us know the quantities, the amounts, of these materials that were submitted but that information was not forthcoming. That is why you do not have it - because I do not have it. But one can get information about this by talking to people. That is why I think it would be useful for our Centre Director in Tokyo to go to the area as soon as possible, once he assumes his job.

In regard to the second question raised, I thought I had touched on that. I will go back to it again. As I said, this is a list of the materials produced within this period, and distributed. Our centres have standing orders and they fill them. I am quite sure that, as regards the basic materials of the United Nations - copies of the Charter and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - stocks are constantly being replenished and constantly sent out to the mailing list, and we have a regular printing of these items. We check our stocks, and when our stocks in the different languages go down to a certain level we ship more to

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the centres and the centres send them out to their mailing lists and all the contacts that they have.

I do not know that I can do much better than that, but I can tell the Council that one of our prime goals in the Department is to make documents such as the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights available, in the case of the Declaration in a great many languages because this is very useful in local languages.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like once again to discuss the situation regarding information on how the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands is provided with material from the United Nations. First, it seems to me a bit strange that these basic United Nations documents are not referred to in the report. Stating that the supply is constantly being supplemented is really not saying anything. Even if we were talking about general statistics, information regarding these documents should appear in the reports transmitted to the sessions of the Trusteeship Council. We are also disappointed at the fact that the Department of Public Information cannot receive data from its Tokyo office by the time it begins its work - and we all know that the sessions of the Trusteeship Council take place once a year. This was also the case last year, when we did not have accurate data. Thus, we must conclude either that the Information Centre at Tokyo does not know when a session of the Trusteeship Council is held and is therefore not in a position to submit in time the information needed at Headquarters or that there is some other reason involved. I do not want to start a guessing game on this question. Therefore, it seems to me that we should bring some order into these affairs.

I do not think that material is sent from the Information Centre at Tokyo to the Trust Territories every day - that is hardly likely. It is probably sent on certain days or during certain weeks. I do not know how many times a month this information is sent and how much is sent, but it does not seem very difficult to record the fact that information has been sent to the Trust Territory. It should not be too difficult to register the transmitted material at the Information Centre at Tokyo in the same way as everything is registered here at the United Nations; information is sent out from here too, and not every day. The question is how often this information is sent out. It would be a good idea to know that.

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Lastly, I have another question to put to Mr. Sills, as representative of the Department of Public Information, concerning the number of addressees. We have seen this magic number 33 in the report for a number of years. I can understand that apparently it is not always a simple matter to record all the mail sent from the Centre and from Headquarters to the Trust Territory. At the same time, there should be an estimate of the number of addressees, and as you have already said, Madam President, that estimate could surely be made during a regular visiting mission. I remember that last year the representative of the Tokyo Information Centre visited the Trust Territory. That event, as was noted last year, could take place regularly. In the interest of the people of the Trust Territory, the United Nations could probably arrange for an inspection trip, either by a representative from Headquarters, by a representative from the Tokyo Information Centre or by a representative from some other place. Such a mission could determine whether all opportunities are being used. Perhaps the need to receive informational material is now being felt not only by the 33 addressees but also by organizations, by institutions or simply by individuals. That group might increase considerably.

Therefore, I should like to know the procedure for determining the geographical distribution of this information, the mailing list and how new addresses are added to that list, what action is taken for those purposes. Informational activity is important and vital at a time when steps are being taken to ensure that such material is distributed as widely as possible.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The representative of the Soviet Union has raised a number of questions and some of them are perhaps particularly difficult. I call on Mr. Sills.

Mr. SILLS (Department of Public Information): Three points have just been raised by the representative of the Soviet Union. Concerning the first one, relating to the basic documents of the United Nations, such as the Charter and the

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Universal Declaration of Human Rights, I really do not have anything to add to what I have already said. My understanding is that the statement that a supply is constantly being supplemented is significant.

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I have also spoken to the the third point, which has to do with the possibility of the Director of the Information Centre in Tokyo making a trip to the Trust Territory and carrying out a personal examination of the situation. I have explained to the Council that the Director of the Centre will assume his office next month and that this will be very high on the agenda, funds permitting.

On the second point, regarding specific statistics, I am not singling out the office in Tokyo, and the office in Tokyo is not singling out the Council. The office is aware of the timing of the Council's session; that is not a problem, so there is no need, with all due respect, for a guessing game. We know quite well what the problem is: It is that in the Tokyo office, as in the Moscow office and the Washington office and the more than 60 other Information Centres, we do not have the kind of exact statistical information about distribution and, following up on that, about evaluation that we would like to have. We are in the process of computerizing this. We are trying to get a better record of precisely how much material is distributed. We can tell you precisely what we send from Headquarters to each of the Centres, but the question is when a Centre gets the material how much does it give out to people who walk in, how much does it send to people on its mailing-list, and how much is ultimately discarded because it gets too old and is out of date. We do not have that information; we do not have those data. The point is that this is not a problem just with Tokyo and just in relation to the segment of the Tokyo mailing-list that has to do with the Trust Territory. It is a difficulty with all the Information Centres.

How often are things sent out? They are sent out as they come in. They are collected; they will not be sent on a daily basis - the representative of the

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Soviet Union is absolutely right. If a specific request comes in from an area, of course we try to fill it as quickly as we can.

Our Centres are not staffed to excess. We have a very limited staff in the Centres and they have a lot to do.

With respect to the mailing-list specifically and the "magic 33" that is referred to in paragraph 3 of document T/1947, that, as noted in that paragraph, is the distribution for documents of the Trusteeship Council which were mailed by the Distribution Section. As I stated in my introductory remarks, I have been told by the staff of the Council that the list is available. It is not a Department of Public Information mailing-list, and I do not have information regarding it. Members would have to address to the Secretariat their questions on why the number remains constant at 33 each year.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I thank Mr. Sills for the additional information. Perhaps the Secretariat could clarify this "magic" number of 33. My point was that the Department of Public Information does not even have such a "magic" number, which is a matter of concern.

I should still like to know the addresses to which Department of Public Information information is being sent.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Secretariat has taken note of the question and will do its best to provide the information just requested by the representative of the Soviet Union at our next meeting, when we shall continue consideration of this item. I think that is the best way to proceed.

I thank Mr. Sills for his valuable contribution to our work.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 2106 B (XX) AND 44/68)

SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 3057 (XXVIII) AND 44/52)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Following past practice, and if there is no objection, I shall take it that the Council decides to examine these two items together.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Secretariat has provided each delegation with documentation containing resolutions 44/68 and 44/52, adopted by the General Assembly at its fourty-fourth session.

Does any delegation wish to comment on these items?

Is it the wish of the Council to take up consideration of these two items at a subsequent meeting, or does the Council wish to conclude their consideration today?

Does any delegation wish to express its view on the matter? We can either take up these two items next week - and, as we have done for previous items, keep them open for consideration - or consider that they have been concluded today.

Mr. SMITH (United Kingdom): As far as the United Kingdom delegation is concerned, we may close consideration of these items today.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): If there are no objections from other delegations, I shall take it that the Council decides to take note of these two items on its agenda.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Council has thus concluded consideration of these two items.

ATTAINMENT OF SELF-GOVERNMENT OR INDEPENDENCE BY THE TRUST TERRITORIES (TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1369 (XVII) AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1413 (XIV)) AND THE SITUATION IN THE TRUST TERRITORIES WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDNECE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 1514 (XV) AND 44/101)

CO-OPERATION WITH THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDNECE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1654 (XVI))

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): If there is no objection, I shall take it that, in keeping with past practice, the Council decides to examine these two items together.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Council has before it resolution 44/101 adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session. That resolution deals with the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

I call on the representative of the Soviet Union, who wishes to comment on items 11 and 12, which the Council has decided to consider together.

Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Every year, the Trusteeship Council's agenda contains items on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples as it applies to Trust Territories and on the co-operation of the Council with the Special Committee on decolonization. In accordance with United Nations decisions, its bodies dealing with questions of decolonization are called upon to co-ordinate their efforts in that area and to help each other for the good of the peoples still under colonial domination and under the trusteeship in order to help them achieve self-determination on the basis of freedom of social and political choice.

It has already been established for quite some time that, in the interests of a more effective implementation of the Trusteeship Council's functions, we need to exploit fully the Special Committee's wealth of positive experience and potential, in close and fruitful co-operation between those bodies.

We know that the Special Committee has been and continues to be ready to co-operate. We should like in that connection to express the hope that, in order to carry out the important tasks facing us, the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee will be able to establish business-like and fruitful co-operation. As we see it, such co-operation would undoubtedly be to the benefit of the Micronesian people.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I should like to remind the Council that we shall not take a decision on these items until after the adoption of our conclusions and recommendations. The item will thus remain open until the end of our work.

If I hear no objection, it is so decided.

The meeting rose at 12 noon.